

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A system for maintaining inventory for a plurality of products comprising:
a first computer readable storage medium comprising product information fields
that are configurable to define controls that are used to manage the inventory of a
5 product;
a second computer readable storage medium comprising at least one calculator
module comprising computer instructions for implementing a methodology for
controlling inventory of the product;
a third computer readable storage medium comprising at least one adjustor
10 module comprising computer instructions for implementing an inventory adjustor
methodology for the product; and
a processing element in communication with said computer readable storage
medium, wherein when said product is selected, said processing element uses the
information stored in the product fields, the calculator, and the adjustor to control the
15 inventory of the product.
2. A system according to Claim 1, wherein said first computer readable medium
comprises product information fields that are configurable to define controls that will be
used to manage the inventory of a plurality of products.
3. A system according to Claim 1, wherein said first computer readable medium
20 comprises product information fields for each of a plurality of products that are
configurable to define controls that will be used to manage the inventory for each
product.
4. A system according to Claim 1, wherein for a product said first computer
readable medium includes sub-component data related to the product.
- 25 5. A system according to Claim 4, wherein the sub-component data comprises
data related to whether the product is used in marketing.
6. A system according to Claim 4, wherein the sub-component data includes
information related to the time, date, and location where the product is used.

7. A system according to Claim 4, wherein the sub-component data includes information related to an inventory methodology used for at least one of control or adjust inventory for the product.

8. A system according to Claim 4, wherein the sub-component data includes
5 information related to relationships with other sub-components of the product.

9. A system according to Claim 4, wherein for a product said first computer readable medium includes sub-type data related to the product sub-component.

10. A system according to Claim 9, wherein said sub-type data comprises an identification value assigned to the product sub-component.

10 12. A system according to Claim 9, wherein said sub-type data comprises values to allot quantities of inventory and control notification of use of the inventory.

13. A system according to Claim 9, wherein said sub-type data comprises values representing hierarchy under which the product sub-type is placed relative to other product sub-types, wherein said values are used during a sell or cancel adjustment to the
15 inventory of the product.

14. A system according to Claim 1, wherein for a product said first computer-readable medium includes market control information.

15. A system according to Claim 14, wherein said market control information is selected from the group consisting of identification of the product, when the product is
20 being used, when the product is being purchased, where the product is being sold, how the product is being used, and a market value.

16. A system according to Claim 14, wherein said market control information comprises a weighted value for a requested market against all other possible markets for the product.

25 18. A system according to Claim 1, wherein at least two of said first, second, and third computer readable mediums are comprised in the same computer readable medium.

17. A method for maintaining inventory for a plurality of products comprising:
providing product information fields that are configurable to define controls that
are used to manage the inventory of a product on a computer readable medium;

5 providing at least one calculator module comprising computer instructions for
implementing a methodology of controlling inventory of the product on a computer
readable medium;

providing at least one adjustor module comprising computer instructions for
implementing an inventory adjustor methodology for the product on a computer readable
medium;

10 receiving a request for information concerning the product; and
using the information stored in the product fields, the calculator, and the adjustor
to control the inventory of the product.

19. A method according to Claim 18, wherein said providing product information
step provides product information fields that are configurable to define controls that will
15 be used to manage the inventory of a plurality of products.

20. A method according to Claim 18, wherein said providing product information
step provides product information fields for each of a plurality of products that are
configurable to define controls that will be used to manage the inventory for each
product.

20 21. A method according to Claim 18, wherein for a product said providing
product information step provides sub-component data related to the product.

22. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the sub-component data comprises
data related to whether the product is used in marketing.

23. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the sub-component data includes
25 information related to the time, date, and location where the product is used.

24. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the sub-component data includes
information related to an inventory methodology used for at least one of control or adjust
inventory for the product.

25. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the sub-component data includes information related to relationships with other sub-components of the product.

26. A method according to Claim 18, wherein for a product said providing product information step provides sub-type data related to the product sub-component.

5 27. A method according to Claim 26, wherein said sub-type data comprises an identification value assigned to the product sub-component.

28. A method according to Claim 27, wherein said sub-type data comprises values to allot quantities of inventory and control notification of use of the inventory.

10 29. A method according to Claim 27, wherein said sub-type data comprises values representing hierarchy under which the product sub-type is placed relative to other product sub-types, wherein said values are used during a sell or cancel adjustment to the inventory of the product.

30. A method according to Claim 18, wherein for a product said providing product information step provides market control information.

15 31. A method according to Claim 30, wherein said market control information is selected from the group consisting of identification of the product, when the product is being used, when the product is being purchased, where the product is being sold, how the product is being used, and a market value.

20 32. A method according to Claim 31, wherein said market control information comprises a weighted value for a requested market against all other possible markets for the product.

33. A system for maintaining a product inventory comprising:
a first computer readable storage medium comprising information related to at least one product;

5 a second computer readable storage medium comprising at least two calculator modules, wherein each modules comprises computer instructions for implementing a different methodology of controlling inventory of the product, and wherein one of said calculator modules is selected to control the inventory of said product; and

a processing element in communication with said computer readable storage mediums, wherein when said product is selected, said processing element uses said
10 selected calculator module to control the inventory of said product.

34. A system according to Claim 33 further comprising a third computer readable medium further comprises at least one adjustor module comprising computer instructions for implementing an inventory adjustment methodology, wherein when a product is selected for addition or removal from inventory said processing element uses said
15 adjustor module to adjust the inventory based on the methodology associated with said adjustor module.

35. A system according to Claim 34, wherein at least two of said first, second, and third computer readable mediums are comprised in the same computer readable medium.

20 36. A system according to Claim 34, wherein said computer readable medium comprises information for a plurality of products and a plurality of adjustor modules each capable of implementing a different inventory adjustment methodology, wherein one of said adjustors is selected for each product, and wherein when a product is selected for addition or removal from inventory said processing element uses said adjustor module
25 associated with said product to adjust the inventory based on the methodology associated with said adjustor module.

37. A system according to Claim 34, wherein said adjustor module includes computer instructions for implementing an inventory adjustment based on a methodology

selected from the group consisting of net availability, net availability with capping, and threshold availability.

38. A system according to Claim 33, wherein said computer readable medium comprises information for a plurality of products and a plurality of calculator modules
5 each capable of implementing a different inventory control methodology, wherein one of said calculator modules is selected for each product, and wherein when a product is selected, said processing element uses the calculator module associated with said control module to control the inventory of said product.

39. A system according to Claim 33, wherein said calculator module includes
10 computer instructions for implementing an inventory calculator based on a methodology selected from the group consisting of sub-type nesting, sub-component nesting, static virtual nesting, dynamic virtual nesting, and continuous nesting.

40. A system according to Claim 33, wherein said calculator module includes
15 computer instructions for implementing an inventory calculator based on a methodology selected by a user.

41. A system according to Claim 33, wherein for each product said computer readable medium comprises product information associated therewith selected from the group consisting of product type, product name, product date, and product behavior.

42. A system according to Claim 33, wherein for a product said computer
20 readable medium includes product behavior data related to the selling and accounting characteristics of the product.

43. A system according to Claim 33, wherein for a product said computer readable medium includes sub-component data related to the product.

44. A system according to Claim 33, wherein for a product said computer
25 readable medium includes sub-type data related to the product sub-component.

45. A system according to Claim 33, wherein for a product said computer-readable medium includes market control information.

46. A method for maintaining a product inventory comprising:
providing on a computer readable storage medium information related to at least one product;

providing on a computer readable medium at least two calculator modules,
5 wherein each modules comprises computer instructions for implementing a different methodology of controlling inventory of the product, and wherein one of said calculator modules is selected to control the inventory of said product;
receiving a request for information concerning the product; and
using the selected calculator module to control the inventory of the product.

10 47. A method according to Claim 46 further comprising:
providing in a computer readable medium at least one adjustor module comprising computer instructions for implementing an inventory adjustment methodology; and
wherein when a product is selected for addition or removal from inventory, using
15 the adjustor module to adjust the inventory based on the methodology associated with the adjustor module.

48. A method according to Claim 47, said providing steps provide a plurality of products and a plurality of adjustor modules each capable of implementing a different inventory adjustment methodology on the computer readable medium, wherein one of the
20 adjustors is selected for each product, and wherein when a product is selected for addition or removal from inventory said using step uses the adjustor module associated with the product to adjust the inventory based on the methodology associated with the adjustor module.

49. A method according to Claim 47, wherein the adjustor module includes
25 computer instructions for implementing an inventory adjustment based on a methodology selected from the group consisting of net availability, net availability with capping, and threshold availability.

50. A method according to Claim 46, wherein said providing steps provide a plurality of products and a plurality of calculator modules each capable of implementing

a different inventory control methodology on the computer readable medium, wherein one of the calculator modules is selected for each product, and wherein when a product is selected, said using step uses the calculator module associated with the control module to control the inventory of the product.

5 51. A method according to Claim 46, wherein the calculator module includes computer instructions for implementing an inventory calculator based on a methodology selected from the group consisting of sub-type nesting, sub-component nesting, static virtual nesting, dynamic virtual nesting, and continuous nesting.

10 52. A method according to Claim 46, wherein for each product said computer readable medium comprises product information associated therewith selected from the group consisting of product type, product name, product date, and product behavior.

 53. A method according to Claim 46, wherein for a product the computer readable medium includes product behavior data related to the selling and accounting characteristics of the product.

15 54. A method according to Claim 46, wherein for a product the computer readable medium includes sub-component data related to the product.

 55. A method according to Claim 54, wherein for a product the computer readable medium includes sub-type data related to the product sub-component.

20 56. A method according to Claim 46, wherein for a product the computer-readable medium includes market control information.

57. A system for maintaining a product inventory comprising:
a first computer readable storage medium comprising information related to at least one product;

5 a second computer readable storage medium comprising at least two adjustor modules, wherein each modules comprises computer instructions for implementing an inventory adjustment methodology, and wherein one of said adjustor modules is selected to control the inventory of said product; and

a processing element in communication with said computer readable storage mediums, wherein when said product is selected, said processing element uses said
10 selected adjustor module to control the inventory of said product.

58. A system according to Claim 57, wherein said computer readable medium comprises information for a plurality of products and a plurality of adjustor modules each capable of implementing a different inventory adjustment methodology, wherein one of said adjustor calculator is selected for each product, and wherein when a product is
15 selected for addition or removal from inventory said processing element uses said adjustor module associated with said product to adjust the inventory based on the methodology associated with said adjustor module.

59. A system according to Claim 57, wherein said adjustor module includes computer instructions for implementing an inventory adjustment based on a methodology
20 selected from the group consisting of net availability, net availability with capping, and threshold availability.

60. A system according to Claim 57 further comprising a third computer readable medium further comprises at least one calculator module comprising computer instructions for implementing an availability methodology, wherein when a product is
25 selected said using step uses said calculator module to determine availability for the product based on the methodology associated with said calculator module.

61. A system according to Claim 60, wherein at least two of said first, second, and third computer readable mediums are comprised in the same computer readable medium.

62. A system according to Claim 60, wherein said computer readable medium
5 comprises information for a plurality of products and a plurality of calculator modules each capable of implementing a different inventory availability methodology, wherein one of said calculators is selected for each product, and wherein when a product is selected for an availability determination said processing element uses said calculator associated with said product to determine availability based on the methodology
10 associated with said calculator module.

63. A system according to Claim 60, wherein said calculator module includes computer instructions for implementing a product availability determination based on a methodology selected from the group consisting of sub-type nesting, sub-component nesting, static virtual nesting, dynamic virtual nesting, and continuous nesting.

15 64. A system according to Claim 57, wherein said adjustor module includes computer instructions for implementing a product availability determination based on a methodology selected by a user.

65. A system according to Claim 57, wherein for each product said computer readable medium comprises product information associated therewith selected from the
20 group consisting of product type, product name, product date, and product behavior.

66. A system according to Claim 57, wherein for a product said computer readable medium includes product behavior data related to the selling and accounting characteristics of the product.

25 67. A system according to Claim 57, wherein for a product said computer readable medium includes sub-component data related to the product.

68. A system according to Claim 67, wherein for a product said computer readable medium includes sub-type data related to the product sub-component.

69. A system according to Claim 57, wherein for a product said computer-readable medium includes market control information.

70. A method for maintaining a product inventory comprising:
providing on a computer readable storage medium information related to at least
5 one product;
providing on a computer readable medium at least two adjustor modules, wherein
each modules comprises computer instructions for implementing a different inventory
adjustment methodology, and wherein one of said adjustor modules is selected to control
the inventory of said product;
10 receiving a request for information concerning the product; and
using the selected adjustor module to control the inventory of the product.

71. A method according to Claim 70, wherein the computer readable medium
comprises information for a plurality of products and a plurality of adjustor modules each
capable of implementing a different inventory adjustment methodology, wherein one of
15 the adjustor calculator is selected for each product, and wherein when a product is
selected for addition or removal from inventory said using step uses the adjustor module
associated with the product to adjust the inventory based on the methodology associated
with the adjustor module.

72. A method according to Claim 70, wherein the adjustor modules include
20 computer instructions for implementing an inventory adjustment based on a methodology
selected from the group consisting of net availability, net availability with capping, and
threshold availability.

73. A method according to Claim 70 further comprising providing computer
instructions for implementing an availability methodology, wherein when a product is
25 selected said using step uses said calculator module to determine availability for the
product based on the methodology associated with said calculator module.

74. A method according to Claim 60, wherein said computer readable medium
comprises information for a plurality of products and a plurality of calculator modules

each capable of implementing a different inventory availability methodology, wherein one of said calculators is selected for each product, and wherein when a product is selected for an availability determination said processing element uses said calculator associated with said product to determine availability based on the methodology
5 associated with said calculator module.

75. A method according to Claim 70, wherein said calculator module includes computer instructions for implementing a product availability determination based on a methodology selected from the group consisting of sub-type nesting, sub-component nesting, static virtual nesting, dynamic virtual nesting, and continuous nesting.

10 76. A method according to Claim 70, wherein said adjustor module includes computer instructions for implementing a product availability determination based on a methodology selected by a user.

77. A method according to Claim 70, wherein for each product said computer readable medium comprises product information associated therewith selected from the
15 group consisting of product type, product name, product date, and product behavior.

78. A method according to Claim 70, wherein for a product said computer readable medium includes product behavior data related to the selling and accounting characteristics of the product.

79. A method according to Claim 70, wherein for a product said computer
20 readable medium includes sub-component data related to the product.

80. A method according to Claim 79, wherein for a product said computer readable medium includes sub-type data related to the product sub-component.

81. A method according to Claim 70, wherein for a product said computer-readable medium includes market control information.

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82. A method for maintaining inventory for a plurality of products comprising:
accessing one or more computer readable mediums that comprise:
product information fields that are configurable to define controls that will
be used to manage the inventory of a product;
5 at least one calculator module comprising computer instructions for
implementing a methodology of controlling inventory of the
product; and
at least one adjustor module comprising computer instructions for
implementing an inventory adjustment methodology;
10 inputting product information into the product information fields related at least
one product; and
selecting the calculator and adjustor modules to use with the selected product.

83. A method according to Claim 82, wherein the first computer readable
medium comprises product information fields that are configurable to define controls that
15 will be used to manage the inventory of a plurality of products.

84. A method according to Claim 82, wherein said inputting step comprises
inputting product information into the product information fields for each of a plurality of
products.

85. A method according to Claim 82, wherein said inputting step comprises
20 inputting sub-component data related to the product.

86. A method according to Claim 85, wherein said inputting step comprises
inputting sub-type data related to the product sub-component.

87. A method according to Claim 82, wherein said inputting step comprises
inputting market control information.

25 88. A method according to Claim 82, wherein the computer readable medium
comprises at least two adjustor modules, wherein each modules comprises computer

instructions for implementing an inventory adjustment methodology, and wherein said selecting comprises selecting one of said adjustor modules to use with the product.

89. A method according to Claim 89, wherein at least on the adjustor modules includes computer instructions for implementing an inventory adjustment based on a methodology selected from the group consisting of net availability, net availability with
5 capping, and threshold availability.

90. A method according to Claim 82, wherein the computer readable medium comprises at least two calculator modules, wherein each module comprises computer instructions for implementing a different methodology of controlling inventory of the
10 product, and wherein said selecting comprises selecting one of said calculator modules to use with the product.

91. A method according to Claim 90, wherein at least one of the calculator modules includes computer instructions for implementing an inventory calculator based on a methodology selected from the group consisting of sub-type nesting, sub-component
15 nesting, static virtual nesting, dynamic virtual nesting, and continuous nesting.